



March 25, 2020

## Emergency Management and Response

### Informational Bulletin #2

Alton Community Members,

The emergency management team would like to reassure everyone that we are communicating on a regular basis during this COVID-19 pandemic. We are monitoring the situation daily during this state of emergency and established local precautions to ensure the overall safety of the community.

#### **Actions local government have taken to help the safety and health of the community:**

- Closed government buildings to the general public
- Closed recreational facilities and other gathering locations
- Educated town employees on symptoms of COVID-19
- Monitoring all town employees for signs of illness including daily temperature checks
- Transitioning some employees to working from home
- Increased the amount of cleaning and disinfecting performed on a daily basis
- Increased the amount of personal protective equipment for our first responders

Your town government and emergency management team are doing everything possible to keep the community safe and running smoothly during these trying times. This means essential services such as police, fire/EMS, water, trash disposal, and the maintenance of infrastructure will continue. Other functions within town government are running remotely or by phone, however the services are being maintained.

**Actions community members can take that will help.** If you are able to, please stay home. If you must go out please do the following things to reduce the risk of exposure:

- Go to work and go back home
- Get the supplies you need and go home
- Help those that cannot get out by getting them supplies, but then go home
- Stay 6 feet away from others at all times
- Do not visit with friends or family
- Do not go anywhere if you are sick
- Wash your hands often

- Disinfect hard surfaces at your home or your workspace regularly
- If you have questions about COVID-19 call 211 or check the CDC and DHHS websites

By taking these steps, we can help slow down the progression of this disease. The idea is to slow the spread so that we do not overwhelm our already stressed healthcare system. When large numbers of people become very sick all at once, it will overload the staff and resources in the healthcare system. Once the system is overloaded then our loved ones and neighbors will struggle to get the care they need. By slowing the wide scale spread of the disease, we can better treat those infected and reduce the overall mortality rate. With this in mind, the emergency management team urges the community to adhere to the safety guidelines being issued and be considerate of one another.

Attached are some ways that you can stay current on the local and global situation surrounding COVID-19 and phone numbers you can call with questions or concerns.

#### **QUICK LINKS TO STATE AND FEDERAL WEBSITES:**

**NH DHHS:** <https://www.nh.gov/covid19/>

**NH HSEM:** <https://www.nh.gov/safety/divisions/hsem/index.html>

**CDC:** <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

#### **QUICK REFERENCE HOTLINES:**

**People with general questions on COVID-19 to this phone number: 2-1-1**

**Callers will reach a phone menu, and then select the 'COVID' option to reach a live operator. Callers should expect to wait patiently for many minutes to reach an operator.**

**Report any suspected cases of COVID-19 (via exposure or travel) to the DPHS at these phone numbers:**

**During the day, call 603-271-4496 (office hours from 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM) or 603-271-5300 (only after hours). Caller should expect to leave a message with an operator, or leave a voice mail, and wait patiently for a return call within a few hours.**

**Direct sick people (i.e. symptomatic with fever, cough or shortness of breath) to call their healthcare provider:**

**If they don't have a provider, they can call an urgent care clinic and ask for an evaluation.**

**If you or a neighbor need local assistance please contact us at one of these numbers for assistance: Alton Police (603)875-0757, Alton Fire and Rescue (603)875-0222, or Alton Town Offices (603)875-2113.**

**Remember to stay safe and vigilant,**

**Alton Emergency Management Team**